



**Port of Clarkston**  
The Proud Port

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**RECEIVED**

**OCT - 6 2008**

**Public Disclosure  
Commission**

October 2, 2008

Washington State Public Disclosure Commission  
711 Capitol Way, Room 206  
P.O. Box 40908  
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

ATTENTION: Phil Stutzman, Director

RE: Port Newsletter

Dear Mr. Stutzman:

I am writing to follow up on my email of September 25, 2008 regarding the Port's newsletter and a local ballot measure.

Twice a year, the Port publishes a newsletter to inform our constituents of the Port's activities and related matters. The newsletter is incorporated within the pages of the local daily newspaper, the Lewiston Tribune, but is paid for by the Port. The August 31, 2008 newsletter included a column entitled: "From the Chair of the Port Commission" which focused on the Port's industrial park aspirations. A copy of the complete newsletter is enclosed.

The Asotin County Commissioners have placed an advisory measure on the November ballots relating to the possible transfer of some county land to the Port. The property in question is the "Evans Road" property referred to in the "From the Chair" column. The ballot measure is referred to at the very end of the column. The very last sentence of the column urges a "yes" vote on the measure.

We sent a copy of the newsletter to the Washington Public Ports Association. Sometime later, I received a call from the Association office informing me we may have violated the campaign finance law. It was not our intent to violate the law.

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The possible transfer of the county land to the Port has been a topic of public discussion for several years. The Port is on record requesting that the county transfer the property. Our intention was to explain the Port's long-standing pre-ballot measure position on the question of the transfer.

By way of further explanation, it was my understanding that the Commission could take a position on a ballot measure. Upon conferring with the Port attorney, I now understand that certain procedures and restrictions apply (RCW 42.17.130). We now recognize that urging an affirmative vote on the ballot measure should not have been included in the newsletter, and we genuinely regret that we stepped over the line.

We are working on adopting procedures which we hope would prevent this type of mistake from happening again. We are undertaking the following:

1. Developing a "rules" notebook for easy reference by the Port Manager and staff so that an incomplete understanding of the rules such as occurred here would be less likely.
2. All publications of the Port referring to political campaigns or ballot measures will receive prior review by the Port Attorney.
3. Incorporating a "cooling off period" between the time a document is prepared and the time it is sent out for publication.

We would welcome from the Public Disclosure Commission any suggestions as to what additional procedures might help us.

Sincerely,



WANDA KEEFER

Manager

Port of Clarkston

Enclosure